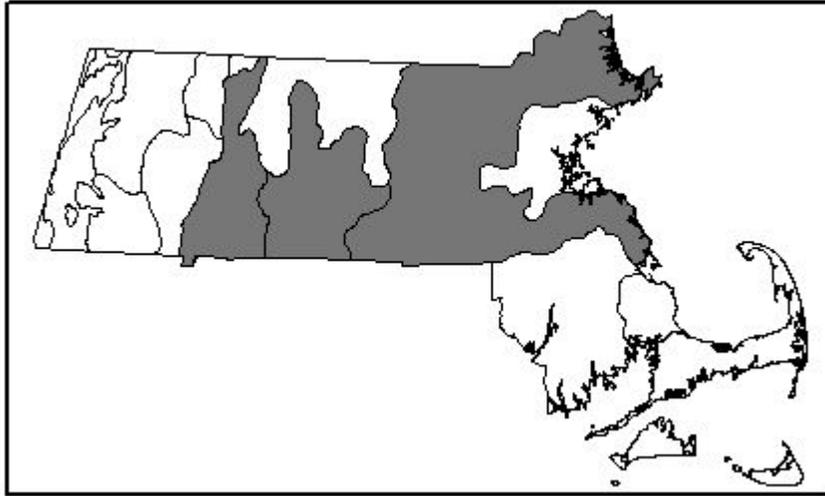


Community Name: HEMLOCK RAVINE COMMUNITY

Community Code: CT1C1C0000

SRANK: S4



Concept: Dense canopies with 80 to 100% closure, dominated by hemlocks. Little understory grows in the shade of the hemlocks.

Environmental Setting: Moist, usually north facing, slopes, or along north facing ravines. Usually acidic rock. Occasional rock outcrops in the ravines.

Vegetation Description: A hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) dominated community. This community usually occurs within the oak - hemlock - white pine communities. Occasional deciduous trees that grow with the hemlock, at very low percentages, include mixed oaks (scarlet, red, white, and black) (*Quercus coccinea*, *rubra*, *alba*, and *velutina*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The shrub layer is sparse, with occasional individuals of the canopy species and small patches of mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). The herbaceous layer is essentially non-existent. The forest floor is covered by needles, twigs, and small branches.

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: The Acadian Fly-catcher (*Empidonax virescens*) is a near obligate to Hemlock Ravine Forests in Massachusetts, although its habitats are broader to the north. Other species that use the hemlock community tend to be northern or conifer preferring forest species, including such birds as Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), Blackburnian warbler (*D. fusca*), Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), and Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). In the winter, mixed flocks are common with chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*), kinglets (*Regulus* spp.), and nuthatches (*Sitta* spp.). Mammals include those that are widespread and typical of northern and coniferous forests: red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), red-backed voles (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), smoky shrew (*Sorex fumeus*), and white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*).

Associated Rare Plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

Examples with Public Access: Mount Holyoke Range State Forest, Amherst; East Brimfield Lake Property, ACOE, Brimfield; Conant Brook Dam, ACOE Property, Monson.

Threats: Hemlock hosts the non-native Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), which usually kills a hemlock tree after it is fully infested. Pre-infestation salvage of areas expected to be targets.

Management Needs:

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

